UNITED NATIONS

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1962
22 August 1995

TUESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

* Ten thousand refugees from Rwanda and Burundi expelled by Zaire; Secretary-General asks UNHCR to travel to Zaire to seek understanding with Government.

* Bosnian Serbs target United Nations observation post outside Sarajevo wounding six Egyptian peace-keepers.

* Alvaro de Soto returns from mission to Myanmar; Secretary-General to submit report to General Assembly.

* Government of Guatemala and URNG make progress in negotiations on agrarian situation.

* New Zealand requests World Court to declare proposed French nuclear tests in South Pacific violation of international law.

* Assembly of International Seabed Authority concludes first session in Kingston without agreement on composition of Council of Authority.

* As of 15 August, Member States owe United Nations $2.59 billion; $858 million owed to regular budget and $1.73 billion to peace-keeping operations.

* Two libraries in Lebanon designated United Nations depository libraries.

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Ten thousand refugees from Rwanda and Burundi have been expelled by Zaire since Saturday, including more than 5,000 today, according to a United Nations spokesman. He said the expulsions threatened to destabilize the entire region. Meanwhile, there were reports that more than 60,000 refugees have fled into the hills of Zaire to avoid forced repatriation.

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has asked United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) Sadako Ogata to travel to Zaire urgently to seek an understanding with the Government to calm the crisis. He has also had

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an exchange of letters with the Zairean Prime Minister. The UNHCR has appealed to the Government of Zaire to continue to provide asylum while working with the international community to promote the orderly return of the refugees.

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Bosnian Serb forces today directly targeted an observation post manned by Egyptian peace-keepers north-east of Sarajevo, according to a United Nations spokesman. Six Egyptians were injured in the attack, two of them seriously. There was also heavy shelling in the Sarajevo area as a result of Bosnian Government forces targeting a Serb arms factory just north of the city. Retaliatory shelling by the Bosnian Serb army followed.

Yesterday, Special Representative Yasushi Akashi briefed the Secretary-General on the situations in Bosnia and Croatia. Mr. Akashi returned to his post in Zagreb today.

The Co-Chairmen of the International Conference on the Former Yugoslavia, Thorvald Stoltenberg and Carl Bildt, travelled to Washington today to attend memorial services for the three United States envoys who were killed in Sarajevo in an accident on Saturday.

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Assistant Secretary-General Alvaro de Soto has returned from his mission to Myanmar on behalf of the Secretary-General. During his visit, he held several meetings with the Foreign Minister U Ohn Gyaw and paid a courtesy call on General Maung Aye, Vice-Chairman of the State Law and Order Restoration Council.

Mr. de Soto also conferred on two occasions with Nobel laureate Aung San Suu Kyi and leaders of the National League for Democracy. He also met with U Aung Shwe, leader of the National League for Democracy delegation in the National Convention, which is drawing up the guidelines for a new constitution.

The Secretary-General will submit a report to the General Assembly on Myanmar in accordance with resolution 49/197.

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The Government of Guatemala and the Unidad Revolucionaria Nacional Guatemalateca (UNRG) have concluded four days of negotiations on "socio-economic aspects and the agrarian situation". The United Nations moderator for the Guatemalan peace process said the parties had identified points of agreement, rapprochement and disagreement on the "agrarian situation".

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Both parties welcomed the progress that had been made and decided to begin another four-day session on 28 August. With a view to intensifying their negotiations, the parties agreed to schedule two more sessions next month, from 9 to 12 September and from 26 to 29 September.

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New Zealand has requested the International Court of Justice to declare that the resumption of nuclear tests in the South Pacific by France would constitute a violation of the rights of New Zealand and other States by introducing radioactive material into the marine environment. New Zealand also requested the Court to declare that it would be unlawful for France to conduct tests at Mururoa and Fangataufa Atolls before undertaking an environmental impact assessment according to accepted international standards.

In its 21 August application, New Zealand also requested the Court, in the interim, to declare that France should refrain from testing at the two atolls and undertake an environmental impact study. Unless the study established that the tests would not contaminate the marine environment, France should refrain from conducting the tests.

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The Assembly of the International Seabed Authority has concluded its first session in Kingston, Jamaica, without agreement on the composition of the Authority's 36-member Council. The Council is to have an equitable geographical distribution and a balance between developed and developing States.

Assembly President Hasjim Djalal (Indonesia) noted that some groups had agreed on their candidates, while others needed more time to arrive at a consensus. The Assembly therefore decided to hold informal inter-sessional consultations in New York from 6 to 8 December in an attempt to resolve the question of membership of the Council and related issues.

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As of 15 August, Member States owed the United Nations an overall total of $2.59 billion, according to the latest status of contributions report. The figure is down from the $2.61 billion owed the Organization as of 31 July.

Of the current total outstanding amount, $858 million is for the regular budget. Member States owe $1.73 billion for peace-keeping operations.

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Two libraries in Lebanon have been designated United Nations depository libraries, making them part of an international network of 347 libraries in 140 countries that brings United Nations documents and publications to users around the world.

The University of Saint Joseph and Lebanese University, both located in Beirut, are the homes of the depository libraries. The libraries are open to the public free of charge.

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